

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer Of Health
FOR THE
HONITON RURAL DISTRICT
1938

HONITON :
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NO. 2 SANITARY AREA

comprising—

AXMINSTER RURAL
AXMINSTER URBAN
HONITON RURAL
HONITON BOROUGH
SEATON URBAN

Honiton Rural District Council

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HONITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

MY LORD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my 29th Annual Report, which deals with Public Health Matters and the Sanitary Administration of your District during the year 1938.

Natural & Social Conditions of the Rural District.

Area	....	....	....	61,265 acres.
Population		....	....	6,768
No. of Parishes	....		....	22
No. of inhabited Houses at the end of year ending 1938, according to Rate Book			....	2,030
No. of unoccupied Houses			....	33
Rateable Value	....		....	£23,284
Sum represented by 1d. Rate			....	£99

As you know, Honiton Rural District is now incorporated in the No. 2 Sanitary Area, which comprises those Councils shewn on the opposite page.

The only difference this makes, and which is a very vitally important one, is that you have now a Medical Officer of Health who is not engaged in Private Practice, and who at the same time is directly responsible to each Council.

There is no doubt that a Medical Officer free from the responsibilities of General Practice is, without doubt, a system which is a very great improvement on the part time officer, and I think, having had 29 years as a part time official under your Council, I can speak with some authority.

The year 1938 has seen great progress made in the Sanitary Administration of the District.

Great progress has been made with the Yarcombe and Branscombe Water supplies, and I hope to see these schemes an accomplished fact before 1939 passes by.

I am glad to say Infectious Disease has not been very prevalent during 1938. There was a mild outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the Broadhembury and Payhembury Districts, eleven cases in all being reported, but all of a mild type, and I am glad to say no cases of Diphtheria were reported. I think this can be accounted for by the Immunisation Scheme, which is in operation in the District. There was also a slight outbreak of Dysentery at Gittisham and Northleigh, 8 cases been reported, but otherwise we have been remarkably free from Infectious Disease.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector has been exceedingly satisfactory, but the work he has to accomplish is far too much for one man to tackle single handed, and my Council are now considering the appointment of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and when this is done we shall be able to bring our work more up to date.

There were no cases of Puerperal Fever in the District during 1938, and this again speaks very highly of the District Nurses who do practically all the Maternity in the District.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported was 3, and the number of cases of Non-Pulmonary reported was 1. This was very satisfactory.

Rivers and Pollution.

The Honiton Borough have now carried out their new Sewerage Scheme, and this should now stop the pollution of the River Otter. I have received no complaints.

Water Supplies.

BRANSCOMBE.

The Scheme to provide Branscombe with a piped supply, and which I dealt with fully in my 1936 report, is now adopted, and I hope to see the work soon carried out.

Branscombe is the Rural District outlet to the sea, and is becoming more popular with visitors every year, especially the camping visitors, and the present water supply of Branscombe is quite inadequate to deal satisfactorily with the summer influx of visitors.

There is no doubt that as soon as land becomes available for building, the residential area is going to be greatly increased, especially so, as the tendency is now for people to leave the crowded areas, and seek refuge in the country for fear of Air Raids.

The water which would be obtained at Bulstone is very satisfactory, and the spring there delivers 27,000 gallons per 24 hours.

For your information I append the report on the analysis of the Bulstone spring.

REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF WATER.

Sanitary District— Honiton Rural.
 Source of Sample— Spring at Branscombe.
 Place at which Sampled— Head of Spring.
 Date and Time of Sampling—2/2/37. 11.50 hrs.
 Date and Time Received— 2/2/37. 16.30 hrs.

REPORT.

CHEMICAL (Results expressed as parts per 100,000).

Hardness, as calcium carbonate

Temporary 11.2; Permanent 16.0; Total— ... 27.2

Chlorides, as Chlorine 2.4

Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen Nil

Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen 0009

Nitrates, as nitrogen 0.28

Nitrates, as nitrogen Nil

Oxygen absorbed 3 hrs. at 37° C. 018

Metals—lead, copper, zinc Absent

Remarks.—Sample contains suspended matter consisting of earthy matter, with organic debris in small amount.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total Organisms growing on agar, 2 days at 37° C.— 8 per c.c.

„ „ „ „ agar, 3 days at 20° C.— 10 per c.c.

B. Coli absent in—100 c.c.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes

organisms per 100 c.c.— Nil

CONCLUSIONS.

This sample is of a satisfactory degree of organic and bacterial purity, and indicates a water suitable for a drinking supply.

YARCOMBE.

The scheme for supplying Yarcombe with a piped supply has now been approved, and will, I hope, be completed in 1939. I append reports on the water by the Analyst.

Samples of Water for Examination received on 19/1/38.

January 25th, 1938.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1440. Yarcombe (Vicarage). Spring at tap.
B. Coli present in 1 c.c.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—600.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—120 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—8,000 per c.c.

This water is very unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1441. Yarcombe (Calways). Well.

B. Coli present in 1 c.c.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—350.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—80 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—3,300 per c.c.

This sample is very unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1442. Yarcombe (Post Office). Well at tap.

B. Coli present in 2 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—50.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—74 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—3,600 per c.c.

This sample is unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1443. Yarcombe (Sparks). Well at pump.

B. Coli present in 10 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—20.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—40 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—3,990 per c.c.

This sample is of doubtful bacterial purity and indicates manurial contamination of the well and potential danger.

February 8th, 1938.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1478. Yarcombe (Supply to Council Houses).

B. Coli absent in 100 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—Nil.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—24 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—60 per c.c.

This sample is of a satisfactory degree of bacterial purity.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1479. Yarcombe (School House).

B. Coli absent in 100 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—Nil.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—20 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—84 per c.c.

This sample is of a satisfactory degree of bacterial purity.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1480. Yarcombe (Hill House Farm, Clarke).

B. Coli present in 10 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—11.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—14 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—4,800 per c.c.

This sample is of doubtful purity; the content of organisms of the coli group is on the high side.

Yours sincerely, (Sgd.) T. LAWSON McEWAN.

Samples of Water for Bacteriological Examination, received on 3/3/38.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1593. Yarcombe. Spring. Sample "A"
(Proposed Spring for Yarcombe Water Supply).

B. Coli absent in 100 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—Nil.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—15 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—15 per c.c.

This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically.

Lab. Ref.—W. 1594. Yarcombe. Spring. Sample "B"
(Spring near "A" above).

B. Coli present in 10 c.c.s.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.—17.

Bacterial count 2 days at 37° C.—180 per c.c.

Bacterial count 3 days at 22° C.—960 per c.c.

This sample is of doubtful bacterial purity. Contamination from manurial sources is indicated.

Yours sincerely, (Sgd.) T. LAWSON MCEWAN.

Milk Supplies.

During the year constant supervision of milk supplies have no doubt increased the standard of pure milk in the Rural District. I am certain the majority of milk producers take a pride in producing milk of a high standard, and I have always found that where milk fails to come up to the required standard, and the fault can be localised, no man is keener than the Devon farmer to put things right.

What I am greatly concerned about is the difficulty of the inhabitants of some of our villages in obtaining milk supplies. As you probably know, practically every farmer now sells his milk to the Milk Board, and is prohibited unless Licensed from retailing milk in his village.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

I beg to report the results of my Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, which I have carried out in 1938. It was a great pleasure to find that the number of objectors in the various Parishes had remarkably decreased since 1937.

During my tour of the Schools you will note a large number of the 1937 objectors came forward this year and allowed their children to be done. The number of children immunised in the various Parishes amounted to 131, as against 688 in 1937. The number of objectors was only 14, as against 108 in 1937.

Of the 108 objectors in 1937, 28 children were immunised, leaving a balance of 80 children not done. Of these, a large number have left the Schools and Districts, and it was impossible to trace them.

The position to-day is that we have 819 children immunised in the Rural District against Diphtheria, a position in which we can feel great satisfaction.

The method I used was the one shot, Alum Precipitated Toxoid, and the dose given was 0.5 c.c., and I am very glad to report that in no case did I see any serious reaction afterwards from the Immunisation Injection.

Upottery	...	1—1937	objector	done	1938
Gittisham	...	1—	„	„	„
Widworthy	...	1—	„	„	„
Branscombe	6—	„	objectors	„	„
Farway	...	3—	„	„	„
Payhembury	1—	„	objector	„	„
Southleigh	...	1—	„	„	„
Talaton	...	4—	„	objectors	„
Yarcombe	...	4—	„	„	„
Northleigh	...	6—	„	„	„

Honiton Rural District Immunisation Clinic for Diphtheria

Parish	No. possible for Immunisation.	No. Immunised.	No. of Objectors.
Awliscombe ...	3	...	3
Buckerell ...	2	...	2
Branscombe ...	19	...	15
Broadhembury	Postponed on account of Scarlet Fever		
Combe Raleigh	5	...	5
Cotleigh ...	4	...	4
Dunkeswell ...	5	...	5
Farway ...	6	...	6
Feniton ...	3	...	2
Gittisham ...	5	...	4
Luppitt ...	3	...	3
Northleigh ...	6	...	6
Offwell ...	5	...	5
Payhembury	9	...	7
Plymtree ...	12	...	11
Sheldon ...	0	...	0
Smeatharpe ...	1	...	1
Southleigh ...	6	...	3
Talaton ...	18	...	18
Upottery ...	13	...	13
Widworthy ...	7	...	5
Yarcombe ...	13	...	13
	145	131	14

I would here like to express my deep appreciation of the help I received from the School Teachers in the different Schools I visited. Their assistance in organising the children was invaluable and I deeply appreciate their great help. I would also like to thank Miss Greedy (Nurse) who so ably assisted me at every Clinic, and whose work was invaluable.

Sewage Works.

FENITON SEWAGE.

These works have been working in a satisfactory manner; and the same may be said of the Sidmouth Junction works.

COLESTOCKS, PAYHEMBURY AND KERSWELL.

The question of providing new works at Colestocks, Payhembury and Kerswell are now under consideration, and I hope before the year 1939 is over, some progress may be reported dealing with these villages.

Birth Rate Table.

1930	....	16·7	per 1,000 population
1931	....	14·7	„ „
1932	....	15·1	„ „
1933	....	14·0	„ „
1934	....	13·2	„ „
1935	....	12·3	„ „
1936	....	12·7	„ „
1937	....	15·0	„ „
1938	....	12·8	„ „

The Birth Rate again shows a decrease as compared with 1937, 87 Births being registered, as against 102 in 1937.

49 males, 38 females. There were no illegitimate births.

During 1938 there was 0 illegitimate birth, as against 1 in 1937.

In addition I beg to report 4 still births, 0 being illegitimate; and 3 deaths from congenital debility and premature birth.

Death Rate Table.

The number of Deaths registered from all causes was 78, as compared with 93 in 1937.

39 males.

39 females.

This is (with the exception of 1936) the lowest recorded for a great number of years.

1930	....	12·9 per 1,000
1931	....	14·4 ,,
1932	....	13·2 ,,
1933	....	12·0 ,,
1934	....	12·6 ,,
1935	....	12·0 ,,
1936	....	10·4 ,,
1937	....	13·7 ,,
1938	....	11·5 ,,

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infantile Mortality (under one year) shows a big decrease: 3 deaths as compared with 7 in 1937.

1930	....	7 deaths	1935	....	3 deaths
1931	....	5 deaths	1936	....	0 deaths
1932	....	4 deaths	1937	....	7 deaths
1933	....	6 deaths	1938	....	3 deaths
1934	....	4 deaths			

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

1 death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was registered.

1931	....	1 death	1935	....	5 deaths
1932	....	8 deaths	1936	....	1 death
1933	....	1 death	1937	....	4 deaths
1934	....	1 death	1938	....	1 death

There was 1 death from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer show an increase, viz., 14.

1931	....	25 deaths	1935	....	16 deaths
1932	....	17 deaths	1936	....	8 deaths
1933	....	22 deaths	1937	....	11 deaths
1934	....	20 deaths	1938	....	14 deaths

Notifiable Infectious Disease during the year.

Disease.	Total Notified 1938.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	8	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	4

I regret to report all cases of Pneumonia are not notified by the Medical Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS—

(a) Pulmonary	3	2	1
(b) Non Pulmonary	1	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE.

	MALES.	FEMALES.
Influenza	0	0
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Cancer	6	8
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	0	3
Heart Disease	10	15
Other Circ. Diseases	1	2
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	3	1
Nephritis	3	0
Congenital Causes, &c.	1	2
Senility	2	0
Suicide	2	0
Violence	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal Disease	0	1
Septic Ulcer	1	1
Other Defined Causes	4	2
ALL CAUSES	39	39
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	1	2
Legitimate	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0

incl'd above

Births.

TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS	....	49	....	38
Legitimate	....	49	....	38
Illegitimate	....	0	....	0
TOTAL STILL BIRTHS	....	2	....	2
Legitimate	....	2	....	2
Illegitimate	....	0	....	0
Resident Population, 6,784.				

**General Provision of Health Services in the
Rural District.**

**HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
OR COUNTY COUNCIL.**

Tuberculosis, provided by the County Council.

Small Pox, do. do.

Maternity.—There is no Hospital provided for Maternity Work, with the exception of the Workhouse Infirmary at Honiton.

Children.—Do. do. do.

Fever.—The District has now no Isolation Hospital. The Council having made arrangements with Exeter, all cases are now sent there.

Other Hospitals. There are no other Hospitals available in the Rural District, and the majority of cases go to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital at Exeter.

There is no provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children, the Workhouse being the only alternative accommodation available.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed to Exeter Infectious Hospital by means of the Exeter Council's Ambulance. Non-Infectious cases and Accidents are dealt with by an Ambulance financed by the Red Cross, and stationed at Honiton.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRE.

Maternity not provided.

Child Welfare provided by the Local Committee at Honiton.

Day Nurseries not provided.

Tuberculosis provided by the Devon County Council at Ivybank, Exeter.

Venereal. Treatment provided by the Devon and Exeter Hospital at Exeter.

The Medical Officer of Health is a whole time official for No. 2 Sanitary Area.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time official, who is also Food Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Two district Nurses are employed by the Nursing Association for maternity and general nursing at home, with infectious cases excepted. There is no provision made for nursing infectious cases at home, and the district Nurses are not allowed to do this work.

Midwives.

The control and inspection of Midwives is now undertaken by the County Council.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases

Infectious Diseases generally during the period 1938.

During the period under review we had an outbreak of Scarlet Fever totalling 11 cases, and occurring at :—

Payhembury	....	3 cases
Plymtree	....	1 case
Upottery	...	1 „
Broadhembury	....	6 cases

but all the cases were very mild.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is used by all the Medical Practitioners in this Area.

The County Authorities undertake the Bacteriological Work for the District.

No primary or revaccinations have been performed by me under the Public Health Smallpox Regulations, 1917.

Non-Notifiable Disease. It is rather difficult to report on this, as the only basis to go on are the report of absences from school supplied by the Head Teacher, and I have no statistics to work upon for the period under review.

Influenza still appears to visit us in cycles of varying intensity. During 1938 I am glad to report there were no deaths definitely attributed to this disease.

Cancer. I regret to report deaths from Cancer show a slight increase—this year's total being 14, as against 11 in 1937.

All arrangements for Treatment of Tubercular Patients who desire Sanatorium treatment are made by the County Authorities.

Your obedient servant,

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector

For the year ending 31st December, 1938.

MY LORD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary and other work accomplished during the year 1938. The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular No. 1728 dated the 25th October, 1938, and it will be seen that the amount of work and number of inspections made indicates that the duties and responsibility of a Public Health Department increase each year.

A feature of this year has been the steps taken to consider providing water supplies and sewerage works in certain Parishes, and although these works are far from complete, a good start has been made, and with renewed effort during the forthcoming year it is hoped to complete these schemes.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the Council and their Officers for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The area is mainly an agricultural one consisting of 22 Parishes, including Branscombe, a small but popular seaside village. Sidmouth, Beer and Seaton are holiday resorts adjoining, hence the influx of visitors during the summer months, which tends to increase difficulties with regard to water and sewerage requirements. Climatic conditions are favourable and employment is conducive to health and longevity.

Water Supplies.

The Parishes in the district are supplied with water from local sources derived mainly from Wells and Springs, and from reports on some of these supplies it appears that the quality of the water is not all that could be desired, apart from the fact that temporary shortage occurs during prolonged periods of dry weather.

It is, however, worth recording that up to the present, no cases of illness have been directly traced to faulty water supplies.

Where isolated wells and supplies are found to be unsatisfactory, the usual notices are served and not much difficulty has been found with regard to obtaining the owners' co-operation in these matters.

Schemes are under consideration for supplying the Parishes of Yarcombe and Branscombe with a public supply of water and a special report appears under Parish Notes.

The Council's existing small public supplies have been overhauled and repaired where necessary during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The undermentioned villages in the District are sewered:—

Branscombe, Feniton, Kerswell,
Payhembury, Plymtree, Sidmouth Junction.

The Branscombe, Feniton and Sidmouth Junction sewers have been working satisfactorily during the year, but there is room for considerable improvement with regard to the other schemes.

The question of providing a sewer and small outfall works at Colestocks was again considered during the year and a Ministry of Health Inquiry held in connection with this matter, but unfortunately, owing to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners insisting on extra work before they would give easements, this scheme has not yet been commenced, but it is hoped that all details will be settled in the forthcoming year.

Following the above Inquiry, the Ministry of

Health have also intimated that new sewerage schemes should be provided at Payhembury and Kerswell. This work is still receiving consideration, as owing to the pressure of work it has been impossible to carry out at once all the details of the various schemes in the District.

Small improvement works and new connections have been made to existing sewers, and the septic tank to the Council Houses at Branscombe seems to be working satisfactorily since steps were taken to discharge the effluent underground.

The work of conversion of privy middens to pail closets or water closets still continues, and it is hoped that shortly no privy middens will be in existence in the district.

The provision of new sewers and connections thereto, automatically raises the question of a water supply for flushing purposes, and in this respect difficulties will arise until such times as public water supplies are available in each Parish.

Public Cleansing.

Organised refuse collections are carried out by private contract in the following Parishes or Villages :

Awliscombe,	Gittisham,	Smeatharpe,
Branscombe,	Monkton,	Sheldon,
Broadhembury,	Offwell,	Upottery,
Buckerell,	Payhembury,	Weston,
Cotleigh,	Plymtree,	Widworthy,
Feniton,	Rawridge,	Wilmington.

During the forthcoming year tenders will be invited for collection of refuse in the villages and parishes where no collection is at present made, and it is expected that from April next, organised collections will be made throughout the whole of the Rural District.

The method of disposal of refuse is by hauling to dumps owned by the Contractors or the Council, and in all cases where practicable the "Bradford" system of tipping has been adopted. No complaints during the year have been received with regard to these dumps.

Parish Notes.

AWLISCOMBE.

One house has been reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act in this Parish.

BRANSCOMBE. **Water Supplies.**

Towards the end of the year communications were received from the County Council asking what steps were being taken with regard to the water supplies at Branscombe. Thereupon, a detail survey, including sampling of all public and private water supplies was made. The details of this survey are comprehensive, but briefly they can be classed as follows :—

No. of private piped spring supplies ....	....	11
No. of wells supplying properties ....	....	23
No. of main shutes supplying properties ....	....	3
No. of small springs or shutes supplying properties	4	

Of the private piped supplies, the two largest are :

- (1) Spring pipe supply by ram, supplying 14 houses.
- (2) Gravitation piped supply to Village, supplying 28 properties.

The three main shutes are situated as follows :

One at Street which supplies 23 properties.

One at Post Office which supplies 15 properties.

One in centre of Village which supplies 8 properties.

In all 43 supplies were sampled, and of this number only 7 were satisfactory, 24 were unsatisfactory, and 12 doubtful.

It can therefore be seen that apart from temporary shortage of water in the summer months, and bad distribution, the position with regard to these water supplies is generally bad.

In view of the above reports, therefore, the Council again considered the question of providing a public piped supply from the springs at Higher Bulstone, and will no doubt give instructions for a scheme to be proceeded with early in the forthcoming year.

Housing.

Following the Compulsory Purchase order made by the Ministry, the Council still have under consideration the purchase of Bennetts Field for the purpose of a Housing Site.

Sewerage.

Improvements to the sewer outfall have been carried out to prevent chokage of the effluent pipes.

BROADHEMBURY.

After conducting an Inquiry with regard to Colestocks sewerage, the Inspector visited Kerswell to ascertain the existing condition in this village, and he gave his opinion that a sewerage scheme was urgently required. Unfortunately, owing to the pressure of work, the details of these works have not yet been prepared.

Four new Council Houses have been erected under the 1935 Housing Act in this Parish.

In June a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever was experienced in the Village. All the necessary enquiries, isolations and disinfections were carried out, and the School was closed for a period during the outbreak.

BUCKERELL.

Nuisances with regard to rats have been dealt with in this Parish.

Two cottages have been reconditioned under the Housing Acts.

COMBE RALEIGH.

Reconditioning of two cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act is being considered by an owner.

COTLEIGH.

Various notices with regard to an encampment have been served, and it is possible that this encampment will be discontinued in the future.

DUNKESWELL.

Nuisances arising from drainage have been dealt with in this Parish.

FARWAY.

The question of providing sanitary accommodation and a new water supply to the School is still under consideration.

One cottage has been reconditioned.

FENITON.

Maintenance repairs have been carried out to sewerage works at Feniton and Sidmouth Junction, and new connections have been made to the sewers.

GITTISHAM.

A case of overcrowding occurred during the year, but has subsequently been abated, and steps were taken with a view to having two cottages reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

LUPPITT.

Work of reconditioning two cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, was commenced and the work will be completed early in the forthcoming year.

Several nuisances with regard to drainage have been abated.

MONKTON.

An owner has carried out repairs to a private water supply.

NORTHLEIGH.

The work of demolishing three condemned cottages is now practically complete.

A survey of the water supplies in this Village has been made during the year, and the privately owned piped supply does not appear to be satisfactory, as in some cases a shortage occurs when all the consumers are drawing water at once. This is probably due to the supply main being too small. Steps are therefore being taken to remedy this matter.

OFFWELL.

The Well water supply at the Council Houses still continues to give trouble and periodical pumping and cleaning of the well is carried out.

Notices served with regard to an encampment have proved effective and the camp has been discontinued.

PAYHEMBURY.

Proposals have been put forward for the reconditioning of a cottage at Colestocks under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

The Water Supplies at Colestocks are derived chiefly from shallow wells, and the whole of the private supplies have been sampled. Eleven samples were taken, seven proved unsatisfactory and four satisfactory.

It is hoped that the provision of a new sewer will help to remedy these unsatisfactory water supplies.

The question of providing a new outfall works and extension of the existing sewer in the Village is still receiving consideration.

Two nuisances with regard to drainage have been remedied in Payhembury Village, and a cottage reported to be in a filthy and verminous state has received attention.

PLYMTREE.

The School water supply was analysed and found to be satisfactory.

Observations have been made with regard to the provision of a new Burial Ground.

SHELDON.

A case of overcrowding occurred in this Parish and was subsequently abated following communications with the owner of the property.

Maintenance repair works have been carried out to the Council's ram water supply. This supply appears to have worked satisfactory during the year.

SOUTHLEIGH.

Following the service of notices under the Housing Acts, an undertaking from an owner that a cottage would not be occupied was accepted by the Council.

TALATON.

Two nuisances have been abated and new well water supplies analysed and found satisfactory.

UPOTTERY.

A collection of refuse was brought into operation during the year in this Parish.

The School water supply at Smeatharpe was sampled and found to be satisfactory.

WIDWORTHY.

A preliminary survey of the water supplies in this Parish has been made.

A nuisance arising from drainage has been abated.

YARCOMBE.

Following the unsatisfactory reports on water samples in this Village and the Medical Officer's report that the provision of a public water supply was a matter of urgency, a small scheme consisting of the collection of a spring supply at Beacon; a storage reservoir of 5,000 gallons capacity; and pipe line to the Village was prepared, and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Presumably a public Inquiry will be held early next year in connection with the Council's application for loan sanction of £650.

The Council's existing piped water supply in the higher portion of the Village has been overhauled during the year.

Housing.

Owing to pressure of work the anticipated survey of dwellings in connection with Slum Clearance was not carried out during the year. A number of individual houses have, however, been inspected and reconditioning of these properties has been obtained where necessary. In this respect the advantage of obtaining grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act has been pointed out to owners, and it is noticeable that steady progress of reconditioning is carried on under this Act.

5 Houses have been reconditioned and application for grants have been approved in respect of 7 other cottages.

Housing Statistics.

(1) **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.**

(1) (a) Total Number of Dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	80
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	173
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	50
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	75
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	15
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	48

(2) **Remedy of defects during year without service of formal notices :—**

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	59
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(3) **Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

A. **Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------|-----|
| (1) | Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | .... | .... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices— | | | |
| | (a) By owners | .... | .... | Nil |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | .... | .... | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | |
|-----|---|------|-----|
| (1) | Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .... | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | |
|-----|---|------|-----|
| (1) | Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | .... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | .... | Nil |

(4) Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding :—

- | | | | |
|--------|--|------|----|
| A.—(1) | Number of Dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year | .... | 2 |
| (2) | Number of families dwelling therein | .... | 2 |
| (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein | .... | 15 |
| B.— | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | .... | 2 |
| C.—(1) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | .... | 7 |
| (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | .... | 47 |

The above figures with regard to overcrowding are based on a repeat survey made during the year.

The 7 cases of old overcrowding have now been abated either by the provision of Council Houses or by alternative accommodation. Of the new cases, steps are being taken to recondition one of the overcrowded dwellings, and the remaining case will possibly be rehoused by the Council at an early date.

No dwellings have become overcrowded after the Council have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

Milk Supplies—Dairies and Cowsheds.

The registers with regard to dairies and cowsheds were revised during the year, and it is shown that there are 523 dairies and cowsheds in the District.

Improvements are still made to existing cowsheds to enable farmers to produce accredited milk, and in this respect the number of accredited milk producers increase each year. There are now 117 accredited farms on the register, and 9 tuberculin tested producers in the District.

49 milk samples were taken in connection with accredited licences. Samples of milk were also examined for tuberculosis, but did not prove positive to the tuberculosis test.

270 visits have been made in connection with the reconstruction and inspection of cowsheds, and where necessary considerable time was spent in advising with regard to production of clean milk.

Bakehouses.

The three Bakehouses in the District are visited at intervals and it was not found necessary to give any notices with regard to cleanliness.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 4 Slaughterhouses in the District where slaughterings are carried on regularly. Routine inspections are made and the necessary notices given with regard to limewashing. Generally speaking the slaughterhouses are run in a satisfactory manner. During routine inspection, meat which is found to be diseased, &c., is condemned and destroyed. Approximately 250 lbs. was condemned during the year.

In connection with slaughterhouses there are 19 persons licensed as slaughtermen, and all slaughterings are carried out in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act.

The Butchers' shops conform to a good standard but possibly a higher standard of cleanliness could be obtained with regard to transport and handling in connection with delivery of meat to consumers. In this respect it was found necessary to serve notices with regard to the hawking of fish from inadequately protected vehicles.

In connection with meat and food inspection 170 visits were made, including inspections of shops and stores and places where food is prepared.

Offensive Trades.

There is only one offensive trade, that of a knacker, being carried on in the District. No complaint was received during the year.

Nuisances.

Various nuisances have been dealt with during the year, including choked drains, nuisances from slop water and insufficient sanitary accommodation, &c.

37 complaints were received and all were remedied.

3 statutory notices were served in connection with the above complaints.

Camping and Camp Sites.

The camping in the District is mostly confined to the Parish of Branscombe, situated near the sea, and 4 Licences permitting the use of land as camping sites were issued. Each of these sites have been provided with a water supply and sanitary accommodation. There are one or two owners of sites in other parts of the District who have not as yet applied for licences, but it is proposed to take action with regard to these during the forthcoming season. The estimated number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season was between 400 and 500 persons.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Public or Privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No complaints have been received and no action taken with regard to bed bugs. Disinfections have, however, been carried out with regard to fleas.

Schools.

Inspections of schools have been made, including the taking of water samples, and in some cases recommendations have been carried out.

Foods and Drugs Act.

This Act is administered by the Police, and I am indebted to them for the following information regarding the samples taken. 4 samples were taken in the District and all proved genuine :—

New Milk	...	...	2
Tapioca	...	...	1
Sugar	...	...	1
Total			4

Building Progress.

Number of Houses erected :—

With State Assistance	...	...	...	8
Without State Assistance	(Private Enterprise)	...	...	17
Number of Plans submitted	...	...	...	41
Number of Plans approved	...	...	...	39

List of Council Houses erected under the various Housing Acts.

1919	...	Talaton, Hillside	...	...	6
1923	...	Buckerell, Splatts Cottages, Nos. 6 & 7	...	...	2
		Cotleigh, Nos. 1 & 2	...	...	2
		Broadhembury, Colliton, Nos. 1 & 2	...	...	2
		Farway, Nos. 1—4	...	...	4
		Payhembury, Nos. 3, 4, 7 & 8	...	...	4
		Sheldon, Nos. 1—4	...	...	4
1924	...	Awliscombe, Hillside	...	...	6
		„ Village	...	...	6
		Branscombe	...	...	12
		Broadhembury, Village	...	...	4
		„ Colliton	...	...	2
		„ Dulford	...	...	6
		Buckerell, Hillside	...	...	4
		Combe Raleigh	...	...	4
		Cotleigh	...	...	4
		Dunkeswell	...	...	4
		„ Abbey	...	...	2
		Farway	...	...	2
		Feniton, Station Road	...	...	6
		Luppitt, Village	...	...	6
		„ Wick	...	...	2
		Monkton	...	...	10
		Northleigh	...	...	4
		Offwell	...	...	4
		Payhembury	...	...	6
		Plymtree	...	...	6
		Sheldon	...	...	2
		Southleigh	...	...	4
		Talaton, Lashbrook Road	...	...	6
		Upottery, Smeatharpe	...	...	2
		„ Rawridge	...	...	2
		Wilmington	...	...	2
		Yarcombe, Village	...	...	6
		„ Marsh	...	...	4
1926	...	Awliscombe, Church Hill	...	...	3
		„ Weston	...	...	4
1936	...	Broadhembury, Causeway End	...	...	4
		Payhembury, Colestocks	...	...	4
Total					167

Petrol and Carbide Licences.

The following licences were issued or renewed during the year :—

Petrol Licences	...	...	16
Carbide Licences	...	...	5

Rivers and Streams.

No complaints of pollution of rivers and streams have occurred during the year, but generally speaking there is room for improvement with regard to certain cases where domestic sewerage is discharged direct into water-courses. Wherever possible these state of affairs are dealt with under the Public Health Acts. The County Council's authorised Officer also makes inspections with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

General

Number of water samples taken during the year ...	85
Number of samples which were shewn to be in all respects fit for domestic purposes ...	30
Number of disinfections carried out ...	22
Number of drains tested ...	47
Number of visits to works in progress ...	295
Number of privy middens converted to earth closets	4
Number of inspections, &c., with respect to re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act ...	77

Bye Laws and Adoptive Acts in force in the Honiton Rural District.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.
The following sections were adopted by the Honiton Rural District Council on the 8th of September, 1923 :—15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32. Subject to the provisions of Section 33 comprised in Part II. and sections 34 to 38 inclusive comprised in Part III.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

PREVENTION OF NUISANCES. Byelaws made under Section 44, P.H.A. 1875. Removal of house refuse and cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools.

Byelaws are in force with regard to Buildings, New Streets, Tents, Vans, Sheds and Slaughter-houses.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. BAILEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

